



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

LOUISVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 21 YEARS AND 10 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR VIOLATING CHILD EXPLOITATION LAWS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A local man, who sent sexually explicit images via the Internet to a person he thought was a 12-year-old girl with the intent of having sex with her, was sentenced yesterday to 262 months in prison, the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents. The 12-year-old girl was actually an undercover ICE agent.

David L. Huber, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that Dennis Ray Barnes, 55, of 8214 Nancy Lane, Louisville, Ky., was sentenced Sept. 13 following his guilty plea on four counts of violating federal child pornography laws.

U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell sentenced Barnes to 21 years and 10 months imprisonment, plus seven years of supervised release. The Court previously entered a preliminary order of forfeiture addressing forfeiture of Barnes' residence and numerous computer-related items. Judge Russell noted that he will sign a final order of forfeiture when all the notice requirements are met.

Barnes pleaded guilty previously to several violations of federal child pornography laws. According to a written plea agreement filed in open court April 15, Barnes admitted that he used his home computer connected to the Internet to obtain, possess, and distribute images of children engaged in child pornography. On Dec. 6, 2004, Barnes possessed numerous images of child pornography, and on that same date, he engaged in an on-line chat with a person identified as a 12-year-old girl. Prior to Dec. 6, 2004, and continuing until about Jan. 3, 2005, Barnes engaged in numerous on-line chats with the 12-year-old.

On more than one occasion during the on-line chats, Barnes used a web camera to display images of himself to the person he believed to be a 12-year-old girl. Specifically, Barnes used the web camera to transmit images of his genitalia and his face. Barnes also sent similar images of himself to the 12-year-old using movie and photographic files attached to e-mail messages. During the course of the on-line chats and during a monitored telephone call, Barnes discussed matters such as traveling to visit the girl in Illinois to engage in sexually explicit conduct with her. He also discussed plans for

the girl to travel to Louisville and stay in his home to engage in sexually explicit conduct with him. In early January 2005, Barnes mailed money to a person he believed to be a 12-year-old girl so that she could purchase a phone card to continue their telephone conversations.

During those computer and telephone communications described above, Barnes provided to a person he believed to be a 12-year-old girl directions regarding how to connect to his personal computer, and he let her access his computer to share files showing images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Barnes shared the files with the person he believed to be a 12-year-old girl while discussing the sexual activity in which he and the 12-year-old would engage if he traveled to see her or she traveled to see him.

An ICE special agent, acting in an undercover capacity as the 12-year-old girl, connected to Barnes' computer and was able to see 178 files available to be downloaded. On Dec. 6, 2004, the ICE agent downloaded four movie files, and Barnes transmitted one movie file during the chat session. The files contained images of children engaged in child pornography, which had been sent across state lines by computer.

Barnes again allowed the ICE special agent (acting in an undercover capacity) to access Barnes' computer to download certain files, and the agent downloaded numerous movie and photographic files from Barnes' computer on Dec. 14, 2004, and Jan. 3, 2005. The files contained images of children engaged in child pornography, which had been sent across state lines by computer. The child pornography included images of prepubescent children or minors under the age of 12. The pictures also involved material that portrayed violent conduct including the sexual penetration of young children by adult males.

On Jan. 13, 2005, ICE agents executed a federal search warrant on Barnes' home and seized numerous computer and computer-related items, which later forensic examination revealed the presence of more than 600 images of child pornography.

"ICE is determined to identify and arrest sexual predators who prey upon our children," said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown of the Chicago ICE office, which oversees investigations in Kentucky. "The Internet and its perceived anonymity will no longer provide a safe harbor for criminals to conduct their deviant business."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted the investigation in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Barnes' arrest and prosecution is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE national enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,300 individuals nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.